BLACK HILS BANDIT

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Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. – Air Combat Command

February 17, 2006

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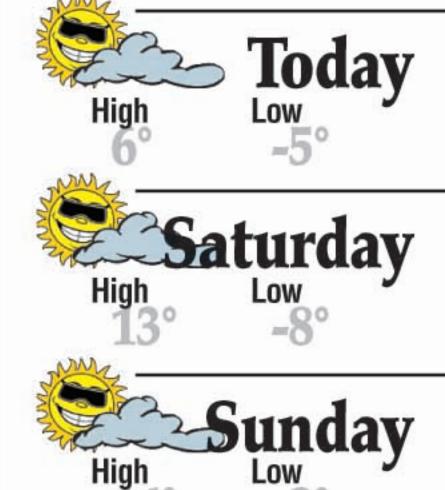
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WEATHER



Provided by the Ellsworth Weather Station.



Housing progress reaches Phase III

Story and photos by Airman Kimberly Limrick BLACK HILLS BANDIT STAFF

New housing units were distributed Wednesday to 75 of Ellsworth's junior enlisted families with three or more children through Phase III of the base's six-phase housing plan.

Mr. Ronald Uecker, 28th Civil Engineer Squadron housing assistance and facilities chief, explained a housing survey held in 2002 revealed Ellsworth's inventory of housing units was 2,034 military family housing units. Of those, 1,006 units were considered inadequate beyond economical repair. The survey result indicated the base's family housing requirement to be 1,338 units. Thus, the sixphase plan was developed, which involved removing 1,006 family housing units while constructing 310 units.

Phase III, the Rushmore Heights area of base housing, consisted of 80 three-bedroom units being replaced by 75 fourbedroom units, is now complete.

Command Chief Master Sergeant Clyde Aune, 28th Bomb Wing, described the improvements in Air Force standards for housing over the past 25 years.

"Joanne (Chief Aune's wife) and I first moved into Ellsworth military family housing in 1981 after waiting for available housing for almost two years. The housing unit we moved into was a single story four-plex, it was old and small, with tile floors throughout the house and metal kitchen cabinets. The washer and dryer took up the 'lions share' of the small kitchen, but we were just glad to be living among fellow military families, so we made the best of our situation," Chief Aune explained.

"Folks living in these houses automatically qualified for food stamps because the housing was considered 'sub-standard'."



New housing resident, Staff Sgt. Tywone Weston, 28th Maintenance Squadron, gets help from his friend in the truck, Airman 1st Class Travis Royster, 28th Maintenance Squadron, in unloading his television from the U-haul into his new home.

Luckily for today's Airmen this is not the case anymore. The new units range in size from 1,906 to 1,997 square feet. All units have an attached double car garage, covered front porch and rear patio, spacious kitchen with side-by-side refrigerator, microwave and screened pantry, porcelain tile front entryway and two full baths, said Mr. James English, 28th Civil Engineer Squadron housing management assistant.

Chief Aune described his first impression of the new

housing units.

"Several months ago, I accompanied commanders, chiefs, first sergeants and members from the Officers' Spouses Club and Enlisted Spouses Group on a tour of the new Phase III housing. These 75 units are far nicer than any military family housing I have ever lived in" Chief Aune said excitedly.

"The quality of housing is a real credit to an increased authorized square footage for each enlisted rank, and a dogged determination by our contracting squadron, civil engineers and housing office to be sure only the highest quality of homes has been completed by the contractor."

"Joanne and I are extremely proud to brag about the quality of homes being occupied by junior enlisted members here at Ellsworth," said Chief Aune. "Soon, there will be new homes for senior NCOs and Officers, but for now, we should celebrate what has been accomplished in our first three phases of new housing construction."

Ellsworth

Members Deployed

(as of Feb. 6)

Number provided by the 28th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

28th Bomb Wing Monthly

Flying Goals

(as of Wednesday) **34th Bomb Squadron Sorties**

deployed

37th Bomb Squadron Sorties

Flown Last Foreign Object Damage

Information provided by the 28th Maintenance Operations Squadron.

28th Bomb Wing

Honor Guard

(as of Today)

Total Miles Traveled

This Week

This Year Total Tasks Performed

This Week **Total Volunteer Hours**

This Year

This Year

This Week

The Honor Guard always needs of volunteers. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Robert Morgan at 385-1186.

Airmen Against Drunk Driving

Safe rides Feb. 10 to 12

This Week This Year If getting home means driving under the influence, call

431-2953

AADD instead.

Tech. Sgt. **Ronald Sprosty**

Airman 1st Class **Dustin Clayton**

28th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

28th Maintenance Squadron

Straight Talk with Col. Smith

Movie Theater Policy

Question: I went to the base theater to see the movie Syriana. As soon as I entered the theater, I was stopped by one of the employees and told they wouldn't show the movie unless 10 or more people showed up to watch the movie.

I made a comment about how I really wanted to see the movie, and he quickly told me that they showed the movie the previous week. There were three customers when I arrived at the theater until a fifth customer arrived later. One of the employees said they would wait an additional five minutes but they would close if they didn't get 10 customers.

To make a long story short, the staff informed us they would not show the movie because of the dreaded "Less Than 10 Customers Rule." However, they gave us free movie passes and even suggested a couple of local theaters where the movie would be playing.

Col. Smith: Thanks for your question, since I know others have been wondering the same thing. Since the movie theater is "owned" by Army-Air Force Exchange Service, we spoke with Mr. Andy Lauder, our AAFES general manager, who relayed the following:

"I want you to know I'm truly glad you contacted me. Had you not, I would've never known my staff had strayed. As we discussed previously, our policy is in the event we have a low turnout to a movie, our staff is to ask our customers if they are willing to accept a free pass to another show in lieu of viewing the film. But, at the same time, they're to make it very clear that we are more than happy to run the scheduled film even if only one person wants to view it - the customer should feel no pressure. Thank you for helping me to improve service to all of our customers."

ACC Family Day Change?

OMMANDER'S OMMENTS

Question: Is it possible to adjust the dates of the Air Combat Command family days? For those military members who have children who attend Douglas schools, the days off never match up, and therefore parents and their children really don't get that extra time together. I know you don't set the dates, but can you make adjustments locally? It was done once before in 2004 for the Dakota Thunder Open House.

Col. Smith: No, I don't have the legal authority to change the days the ACC commander gave us as dedicated "family days." I, too, have a child attending Douglas schools and would also cherish a day off with my son as you mention.

We're all very thankful we have family days to begin with, so we get what we get usually tied to an already mandated three-day holiday weekend.

I suspect the wing commander you mention in 2004 didn't actually move a family day but gave the wing a "down" day (something the wing commander is authorized to do) for excellence at the wing open house.

Housing Sheds

Question: I'm writing in regards to the storage sheds sitting in empty housing. There are empty houses with sheds on base just sitting there that can be used by people that need them.

To purchase one off-base on my own will be around \$700, and once you buy it, you have to try and sell it before leaving. I live in Centennial Housing and can really use the extra space.

Col. Smith: You raise a very good point

and one I've been thinking about every day as I drive by the very same sheds you mention.

We obviously have far fewer sheds than the number other housing residents would want, so we'll have to come up with a plan to distribute them on a "fair share" basis, something I've asked the housing folks to do. As you may know, we've requested funding for sheds for all of the junior enlisted Centennial units in our fiscal year 2006 budget for leased housing projects. I completely agree that sheds are needed for our families with storage needs. We're doing everything we can to make this happen.

Bandit On-line

Question: It's Thursday, and I was wondering what movie was going to be playing this coming weekend ... before the Friday paper came out. My question is why isn't it posted on the Web site along with everything else? I think I also misplaced my last Friday's paper, and I always turn to the Web site, but this time my questions went unanswered.

Col. Smith: You have a great suggestion, but believe me, the answer isn't as easy as you'd think (or hope). I've been trying to change the format of our Web site and Commander's Access Channel since I arrived here — all to no avail.

ACC removed all wing's rights to make changes and reserved that approval process at the Major Command level. Our 28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs staff now has the sole responsibility to make all updates, and they will. And, hopefully within the next week, we'll have the Bandit on line as it appears in person.

Straight Talk

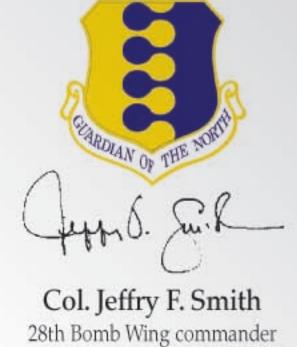
is a forum for the Ellsworth community to voice any suggestions or concerns about Ellsworth directly to me.

If you have a concern, use discretion. Decide whether or not the problem could be solved by using the chain of command. If the chain of command doesn't seem like the best route, please let me know and I'll work the issue.

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To reach the forum, you may e-mail 28bw.pa2@ellsworth.af.mil or write to:

> 28th Bomb Wing/Public Affairs 1958 Scott Dr., Suite 4 Ellsworth AFB, SD 57706

Those wishing to send an anonymous forum can do so at https://intranet1/cc_contact/ or https://intranet1.ellsworth.af.mil/.

BLACK HILLS

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Editorial Staff

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical handi-

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of Ellsworth Air Force Base. All Black Hills Bandit information must be received by the public affairs staff by noon the Friday prior to publication.

BLACK HILLS BANDIT FEBRUARY 17, 2006

Articles 15 punishments

Ellsworth handed out 10 Articles 15 punishments in January. They included:

 An airman first class from the 28th Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for one specification of dereliction of duty. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to airman, restriction to base for 30 days and 30 days extra duty.

 A senior airman from the 28th Communications Squadron received an Article 15 for one specification of drunk driving. Punishment consisted of a reduction to airman first class and suspended forfeiture of \$200 pay per month for two months.

 An airman first class from the 28th MXS received an Article 15 for two specifications of failure to go to appointed place of duty. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to airman, restriction to base for 45 days and 45 days extra duty.

 A senior airman from the 28th MXS received an Article 15 for two specifications of writing bad checks. Punish-ment consisted of a reduction to airman first class and restriction to base for 30 days.

 A staff sergeant from the 28th CS received an Article 15 for one specification of failure to obey a lawful order and one specification of drunk driving. Punishment consisted of a reduction to the grade of senior airman and a suspended forfeiture of \$200 per month for two months.

 A staff sergeant from the 28th Medical Operations Squadron received an Article 15 for one specification of making a false official statement and three specifications of dereliction of duty. Punishment consisted of a reduction to senior airman, suspended forfeiture of \$300 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

 A staff sergeant from the 28th Logistical Readiness Squadron received an Article 15 for one specification of drunk driving. Punishment consisted of a reduction to senior airman, a suspended forfeiture of \$978 pay per month for two months and 45 days extra duty.

 An airman first class from the 28th LRS received an Article 15 for one specification of absence without leave and one specification of incapacitation for the performance of duties. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to airman and a forfeiture of \$692 pay per month for two months.

 A senior airman from the 28th MXS received an Article 15 for one specification of failure to go to appointed place of duty and one specification of dereliction of duty. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to airman first class, forfeiture of \$250 pay, restriction

to base for 30 days

duty.

and 30 days extra

 A staff sergeant from the 28th Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for one specification of failure to go to appointed place of duty.

Punishment consisted of a reduction to senior airman, suspended forfeiture of \$150 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

Information provided by the 28th Bomb Wing Judge Advocate.

January's discharges

Ellsworth involuntarily discharged three Airmen in January. They included:

 A senior airman from the 28th Maintenance Squadron was involuntarily discharged Jan. 27 for a pattern of misconduct — specifically, conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline. Prior to being discharged under Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen, the individual received three Articles 15. The individual was entitled to have his case heard before a discharge board and subsequently separated with a general discharge without probation and rehabilitation.

 An airman 1st class from the 28th Civil Engineer Squadron was involuntarily discharged Jan. 9 for failure in Alcohol Abuse Treatment. Prior to being discharged under AFI 36-3208, the individual was classified as an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment failure based on the inability or unwillingness to comply with his treatment plan. Additionally, the individual received one letter of reprimand.

 An airman from the 28th CES was involuntarily discharged Jan. 11 for a pattern of misconduct — specifically, conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline. Prior to being discharged under AFI 36-3208, the individual received an Article 15, a letter of reprimand and a record of individual counseling.

> *Information provided by the* 28th Bomb Wing Judge Advocate.



January 2006 3 Year to Date3

BLACK HILLS BANDIT FEBRUARY 17, 2006

Top generals meet at Maxwell for Corona

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's topranking leaders met recently for a two-day forum at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., continuing a tradition that has shaped the service's leadership since 1944.

Corona meetings happen three times per year and allow Air Force senior leaders to come together for frank, open discussions and decision-making about the future of the Air Force, said Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Lichte, assistant vice chief of staff of the Air Force.

"The fact that all the four-stars arrange to come together and discuss important issues is actually historical in nature," General Lichte said. "This event had not been held at Maxwell for over 40 years. The chief of staff really wanted to get back to this cradle of Air Force education for this Corona."

Gen. Hap Arnold hosted a meeting for three- and four-star generals Feb. 18, 1944, at Maxwell. According to Air Force historians, documents describe this as the first Corona meeting, although that name was not used.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wanted the forum to return to its roots, highlighting his focus on the heritage to horizon Air Force vision.

At this recent Corona, the results of the Quadrennial Defense Review were used as a basis to talk about the Air Force future in terms of process improvements, force shaping and restructuring, all the while maintaining a focus on fighting the global war on terrorism, taking care of the people and recapitalizing the force, General Lichte said.

"The decisions that come out of Corona lead to programs that will impact the Air Force and Airmen for many years to come," he said.

After receiving input and feedback from several pre-Corona meetings such as the senior leadership forum, which is for one-, two- and three-star generals, and the senior statesmen conference, which is for retired general officers, the current four-stars tackled several issues during this Corona.

The following are a few examples:

- The air staff realigned into an A-staff organization structure, with the major commands to follow suit over the next 90 days. The goal is to improve communication flow within the Air Force and with our sister services and joint community.
- Basic military training will now last an additional two and a half weeks in order to train Airmen on more ground warfighting skills, emergency medical skills and better prepare them to assume duties in an expeditionary Air Force.
- Senior noncommissioned officers and field grade officers will be required to participate in language and cultural studies as part of their professional military development at the Senior NCO Academy, Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College.
- A cyberspace task force has been stood up in the Pentagon under Dr. Lani Kass to provide guidance and policies for the Air Force's emerging "fly and fight" cyberspace mission.
- The overall design of the new Airman battle uniform was approved

with a set of additional improvements proposed to the chief of staff of the Air Force from Airmen engaged in combat operations within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The proposed boot designs were also approved for both men and women. The remaining item is the utility hat, which is still under test and review.

• The "Director of the Air Force Staff" duty title was added to the assistant vice chief of staff position. The assistant vice chief of staff still serves as the official representative for the chief and vice chief of staff when their duties preclude them from being present for any meeting or event as well as serving as the accreditation authority for foreign air attache corps in Washington and principle Air Force representative to attach corps functions.

"The beauty about Corona is that it provides an open and honest atmosphere for Air Force leaders to address their concerns and share ideas," General Lichte said. "You cannot get that type of frank discussion over the telephone or in a staff summary sheet."

Bon Voyage!



Photo by Airman 1st Class Melissa Flores

Col. David Crockett, 28th Bomb Wing vice commander, shakes hands with Col. Jeffry Smith, 28th BW commander, following his fini flight Feb. 10. The fini flight is traditionally the last flight an officer will make with his unit, aircraft or in his career. Colonel Crockett's next assignment is at the Joint Military Attaché School in Washington, D.C.

First piece of Air Force memorial placed

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

ARLINGTON, Va. — Construction crews raised the first piece of the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Va., on top of a hill overlooking Arlington National Cemetery.

The 40-foot long piece of stainless steel, which weighs more than 20,000 tons, is the first of 15 pieces to be placed. When completed, the memorial will be 270 feet tall.

"The design is a take-off on the Air Force (jet aircraft) doing the bomb burst maneuver ... also, that graceful arc of a missile launch, and there are three spires," said (retired) Maj. Gen. Ed Grillo, Air Force Memorial Foundation president.

The three upward spires represent the Air Force's core values — integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do.

"We thought that was very emblematic of representing today's Air Force," General Grillo said.

The memorial is scheduled to open Oct. 13 in conjunction with the Air Force's 60th anniversary. The memorial will also include a bronze honor guard, inscription walls and a glass chamber of contemplation to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"There have been a total, including our predecessor organizations, of over 54,000 people that have been killed in action. We need a tribute, and it's long overdue to the United States Air Force," General Grillo said. To find out more about the memorial, visit the Web site at www.airforcememorial.org.



Photo by Master Sgt. Gary Coppage

WASHINGTON — The first 39-foot section of a 279-foot spire is set into place Feb. 10 at the Air Force Memorial. This is the first of 15 sections that will make the three spires of the memorial site near Arlington National Cemetery. Dedication ceremonies are scheduled for Oct. 13.

DoD's 2007 budget reflects hard choices, official says

By Gerry J. Gilmore
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Defense Depart-ment's proposed fiscal 2007 budget reflects difficult decisions made by senior leaders as they seek to balance today's military needs with those anticipated for tomorrow, a senior official said in Washington, D.C., Feb. 10.

"There were a series of (hard) choices in the budget," Mr. Kenneth Krieg, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, told reporters at a Pentagon news conference.

For example, Mr. Krieg said, senior officials decided to reduce the number of Navy aircraft carriers from 12 to 11, and to stop production of the Air Force's C-17 cargo plane.

"Not everyone is going to love those (decisions)," he said, "and so we'll go through the process" with Congress.

President Bush sent the DOD's \$439.3 billion fiscal 2007 budget request to Congress Feb. 6. That budget proposal, which includes recommendations of the recently completed Quadrennial Defense Review, represents a seven percent in-crease over the fiscal 2006 DOD budget.

The QDR, conducted every four years, looks at U.S. military needs as far as 20 years into the future. This year's QDR is the first to be conducted during wartime. The two prior ones were conducted in 1997 and in early 2001.

The Defense Department's budget has increased since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and the

ensuing global war against terrorism. Combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq have been financially sustained by supplemental funding provided by Congress.

The 2007 defense budget also proposes spending billions to acquire new hightech equipment such as V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft and two DD(X) naval destroyers, Mr. Krieg said. Legacy ships like the World War II-era battleships USS Iowa and Wisconsin that have been in "mothballed" status pending possible recommissioning may be permanently retired due to defense modernization needs, he said.

"I think the department's been pretty adamant in saying it doesn't have any interest in bringing the battleships out of retirement," Mr. Krieg said, "or even continuing to fund their caretaker status to hold that option."

The 2007 budget decisions would have been even more difficult if less money were available, Mr. Krieg said. The U.S., he said, historically has agonized over the right amount of money required for defense spending.

"As a nation, we've had a hard time making (defense budget) choices," he said. "If we're going to change the funding profile over time and turn it downward, there will be even more hard choices."

Such anticipated decisions would be "tough for us to do," he acknowledged.

"But it's important that you make those choices and balance them with the funds you have, if you're going to deliver the kind of range of capabilities that warfighters need," Krieg said.

Ellsworth Airmen assist Army in Iraq

By Airman Kimberly Limrick

BLACK HILLS BANDIT STAFF

After a six-month deployment to Iraq and \$15.2 million in projects completed, Ellsworth's 28th Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen finished living the 'Army life' and returned home Jan. 14.

This was the first time since the Vietnam engagement that an active-duty Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer deployed under the Army. Their unit designation was the 557th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron. Airmen from a total of 28 Air Force bases combined to form the 557 ERHS, an Army Combat Heavy Engineer Battalion equivalent. Ellsworth was one of those bases, deploying 68 troops to the total of 450, said Chief Master Sgt. Andy Babich, 28th CES Operations Flight superintendent.

"It was amazing to go from Ellsworth to Iraq as a part of such a big team, pulled together from so many different bases, including Guard and Reserve personnel, and hit the ground running," said Capt. Ryan Kristof, 28th CES Maintenance

Engineering chief.

The Airmen first went to Fort McCoy, Wis., in June for 21 days of combat skills training to become familiar with what the Army spends five months mastering. They learned the basics of heavy weapons, Army officer and NCO leadership, convoy tactics, hand-to-hand combat, land navigation, combat lifesaver skills and close quarters marksmanship.

After completing their training at Fort McCoy, the Airmen went to Camp Behriing, Kuwait, for training validation

at Udari Range.

"Training validation was conducted in temperatures of over 130 degrees in full combat gear, often during sandstorm, and included advanced close quarter marksmanship and convoy tactics," said Chief Babich. "Even though conditions were terrible and we had eight people fall out the first day, the biggest benefit of Udari Range training was we were forced to adjust to the climate in a hurry, which helped us prepare for conditions in Iraq."

After proving their abilities in Kuwait, the Airmen moved to Al Taji, about 18 miles north of Baghdad, Their jobs included renovating tactical operations centers, providing aircraft static grounding, running fiber optic cable, building roads, enhancing force protection measures, pulling guard tower duty, and main gate search and seizure duties.

RED HORSE deploys under what is called a hub and spoke concept, where primary command and control is conducted in the hub; in this case, Al Taji.



Photo by Capt. Ryan Kristof

Tech. Sgt. Michael Hall (left), 28th Civil Engineer Squadron structural craftsman, assists another troop in building a 28-foot high 180-foot long 'cat walk' used to monitor five lanes simultaneously at Q-West's main gate in Iraq.

The spokes, where they are sent to work, can be anywhere in theater and at any-time could be at up to 10 different locations throughout Iraq.

Duties at these locations consisted of water well drilling, jail construction, runway repairs, helicopter landing pad construction, tactical operation center construction, pre-engineered steel K-Span building erection, guard tower construction, electrical distribution systems repair and building renovations from Gulf War damage.

"Some of the most dangerous Armyrelated responsibilities Airmen were faced with were convoying, guard tower and entry gate duties," Chief Babich explained. "Airmen regularly encountered IEDs on convoys, and some of them faced indirect small arms fire daily while performing gate and tower duties."

Chief Babich described his most memorable experience, which occurred after on convoy.

"We convoyed with the Army from Al Taji to our new hub, Q-West, on a 7-hour trip through some dangerous areas," he said. "After escorting us safely to Q-West, the next day the Army folks headed back out over the same route we just covered, and they were hit by an IED."

During this attack, one of the soldiers was killed. Chief Babich expressed his feelings about attending the memorial service.

"To witness his memorial, the final

role call, the presentation of his helmet and dog tags and to see everyone go up and salute him," Chief Babich paused, "it was very memorable.

Chief Babich explained, during the deployment, realization of the differences between the Army and Air Force

training became apparent.

"Often during Air Force training, if someone goes down, we call the medical folks or the fire department. When our folks went down in Kuwait, we took care of them. If they needed and IV, we gave it to them, there was no one else around to do it. I highly recommend any unit deploying to a combat environment, get as many people as possible combat life-saver qualified."



Airman's Call

There's a mandatory Airman's Call scheduled with Col. Jeffry Smith, 28th Bomb Wing commander, for all airmen basic through senior airmen, March 10 from 7 to 8 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. at the base theater. All affected Airmen are required to attend one of these sessions.

VFW Dinner

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1273 is hosting a free dinner for all active-duty military members and their spouses March 11 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Those wishing to attend should contact their respective first sergeant prior to the event. Dress for the evening is casual with blue jeans acceptable. Distinguished guests scheduled to attend include South Dakota governor Mike Rounds and family, and Col. Jeffry Smith, 28th Bomb Wing commander, and spouse. VFW Post 1273 is located at 420 Main St. in Rapid City. Military identification cards will be used as tickets and should be shown at the front door of the VFW the night of the event.

Heart Link Spouse Orientation

The family support center is hosting Heart Link Spouse Orientation March 2 from 5 to 9 p.m. This class is for new Air Force spouses.

Volunteers Needed

Youth and family services is looking for 10 volunteers to help with the agency's dinner theater fundraiser, From Broadway with Love, Feb. 24 and 25 from 5 to 10 p.m. at 120 East Adams St. in Rapid City. Ushers, parking attendants and table servers are needed both evenings. All volunteers will receive a free meal from the Outback Steakhouse and will be able to watch the theatrical performance. For more information or to volunteer, call Mr. Steve Merrill at 342-4195.

BTES Closure

The base training and education center will be closed from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today and all day Feb. 17. Schools will have regular hours during these times.

TREA Breakfast

The Retired Enlisted Association Auxiliary will host an "all-you-can-eat" pancake breakfast Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 1981 E. Centre Street in Rapid City. Cost is \$3. The menu includes pancakes, sausages, biscuits and gravy, eggs, orange juice and coffee.

Fit to Go Closure

The Fit to Go operation at the Bellamy Fitness Center is permanently closed.

Masters Degree Program
The Air Force Institute of Technology has an "enlisted-to-AFIT" program, in which Air Force members may earn master's degrees in electrical/computer engineering, logistics management or criminal justice. Minimum requirements include a relevant bachelor's degree; the rank of E-6 to E-8 with eight years time in service, completion of seven-level upgrade training and resident Noncommissioned Officer Academy; and three years retainability from date of AFIT graduation. Nomination packages are forwarded by Feb. 27, and selected students report in August. More details are available at the base training and education center.

MDG Closure

The 28th Medical Group will be closed today and Monday in observance of the Air Combat Command Family Day and President's Day.

TRICARE Online

The 28th Medical Group announced that the TRICARE Online appointment scheduling option will be available Tuesday. Enrolled beneficiaries will now have the ability to schedule routine and follow-up appointments via www.tricare online.com. To access this new option, patients must register at the TRICARE Online Web site. A demonstration of TRI-CARE Online and registration assistance will be available in the clinic's multi-purpose conference room from 10 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. For more information, call Master Sgt. Tracey House at 385-3339.

Video Contest

The wing Dining Out committee announces a video presentation contest for this year's Dining Out. The video will be played during the event and will represent Ellsworth's Dining Out theme, "Traditions never forgotten; taking us into the future." The video length is limited to two songs or approximately seven minutes. To create and present a video to the committee, call Tech. Sgt. Jason Kreutzer at 385-6115 with your information and video by March 3. The creator of the winning video will receive two free tickets to the May 5 wing Dining Out.

W-2s Available

W-2 tax statements are now available at https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx. Those who filed a DITY in 2005 will receive a separate W-2 in the mail.

Force Shaping

As more information becomes available concerning Force Shaping, it will be distributed through the military personnel flight to units. For more information, call Capt. Jonathan Morgan at 385-2345.

CAC Logon

Upon logging on to Ellsworth computers, a short logon script prompts individuals to insert their Common Access Card into the Smart Card reader attached to their computer and enter their personal identification number. Required information is then read from the CAC. Once this short logon session is completed with the CAC the first time, users won't be prompted to complete it again. While this CAC logon is not yet mandatory, it's planned to be in the future. As such, the 28th Communications Squadron encourages members to complete this logon so it may identify and correct potential problems with the system before it becomes mandatory. Members who've forgotten their PIN can get it reset at the Military Personnel Flight at the Rushmore Center or the Communications Control Center in Building 4304.

For more information, visit https://net works.acc.af.mil/scn/projects/main.html and click on the PKI link.

AFAS Tuition Grant

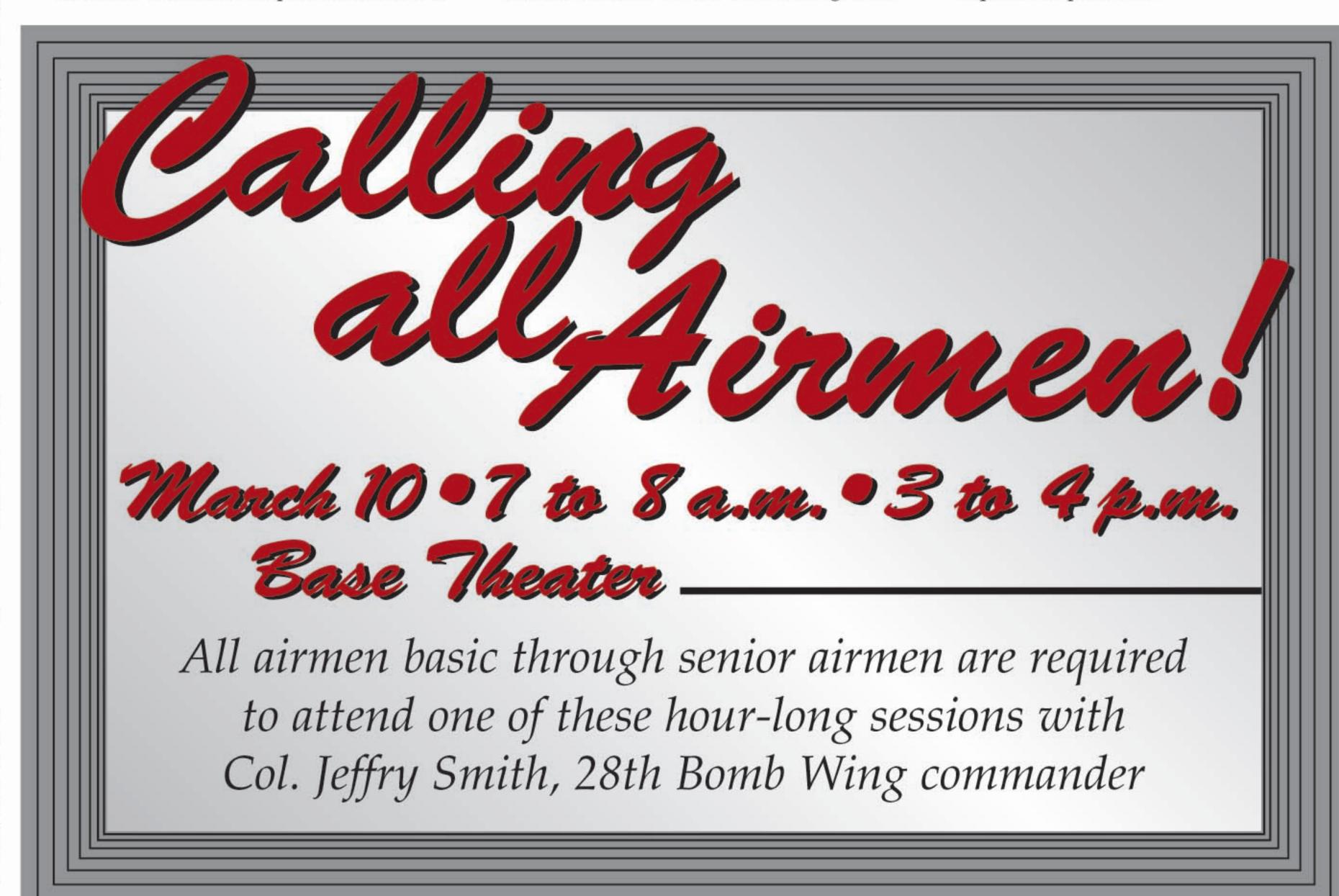
The Air Force Aid Society has increased the individual award amount under its General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program to \$2,000. The program continues to be offered to dependent sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 active guard and reserve/reservists on extended duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired reservists with at least 20 qualifying years of service, and deceased Air Force members. Spouses (residing stateside) of active duty, Title 10 AGR/reservists on extended active duty and surviving spouses of deceased members are also eligible candidates. For more information and application, call the family support center at 385-4663, or visit the AFAS Web site at www.afas.org.

Vehicle Decals

Due to an Air Force-wide shortage of Air Force Form 2219 year decals, the requirement for these decals was temporarily waived by Air Combat Command until further notice. Vehicles will continue to be registered with the Department of Defense Form 2220 and "Ellsworth AFB" decal.

AF Song

During the noon playing of the Air Force song, Airmen are reminded to come to attention with no salute while outside. When driving, base members are not required to pull over.





Grandma's Boy (R)
Friday & Sunday, 7 p.m.
Allen Covert & Peter Dante

By day, 35-year-old Alex tests video games. By night, he's privately developing a game of his own. When one of his roommates spends all the rent money on a prostitute, Alex has to move in with his grandmother and her two quirky roomies.

Casanova (R)
Saturday & Thursday, 7 p.m.
Heath Ledger & Sienna Miller

When Casanova meets his intellectual match in Francesca Bruni — the only woman to ever refuse his charms — he's forced to hide his identity in order to prove himself to be the one man worthy of her romantic ideals.

Hostel (R)
Feb. 24 & 26 • 7 p.m.
Jay Hernandez & Derek Richardson

American college buddies, Paxton and Josh, backpack through Europe eager to make hazy memories with new friend Oli. When the two are lured to a hostel full of hot women, they find trouble and danger rather than fun and mischief.

Last Holiday (PG-13)
Feb. 25 & March 2 • 7 p.m.
Queen Latifah & LL Cool J

After being diagnosed with a fatal disease, a shy sales clerk goes on a European vacation to live out the rest of her life. With nothing to lose, her behavior becomes more irreverent and outrageous each day.

March 3 & 5, Glory Road (PG)

March 4 & 9, Tristan & Isolde (PG-13)

March 10 & 12, Big Momma's House (PG-13)

March 11 & 16, Underworld: Evolution (R)

Casanova a big charmer

By Crystal Hohenthaner
Black Hills Bandit Staff

If you owe your significant other an evening at a chick flick, *Casanova* is probably your best bet for a bearable romantic movie.

Even though the film takes place in Vienna of a past era, the themes ring true for modern American romantics.

The film centers around the idea that true love is about meeting your match — your intellectual match.

As a lady who considers herself independent and intelligent, I love this idea. I also adore the thought that a cad like Casanova would have his head turned by a woman's strength of character rather than her feminine form.

That's not to say the young lady in question, played by Sienna Miller, wasn't lovely to look at — she was. But the film makes the point that choosing a mate for his or her beauty is not the wisest course of action.

And I applaud the skill it took to produce a truly passionate and romantic film that has this practical ideal in mind. It's an important point. I

mean seriously, no matter how cute you are now, we're all getting uglier every minute.

So those who are wise would do well to choose a significant other who is fun to talk to, not just fun to look at.

Speaking of looks, Heath Ledger was a tasty little treat for the eyes in his puffy shirts and little ponytail. And he played the infamous lover, Casanova, with an enormous amount of charm and charisma.

For all you fellas out there — never fear — this film is more than a feminist romance; it's also a raucous comedy.

Always a sucker for a good sidekick, I immediately adored Casanova's partner-in-crime, Lupo, played by Omid Djalili. Their banter and scheming throughout the film is delightful.

Lena Olin, Oliver Platt and Jeremy

Irons also weighed-in with hefty comedic performances.

And for those who love romance, but dislike the over-sexuality of Hollywood film-making, *Casanova* is a refreshing depiction.

Despite its "R" rating the film stays sensual rather than sexual. It does refer to and hint at sexual encounters. But, tastefully, *Casanova* refrains from depicting such rendezvous.

It wouldn't be a romantic comedy without a tangle or two, and *Casanova*'s plot gets into quite a twist.

But of course, alls well that ends well, and I like the film because it ends very well.

All-in-all, *Casanova* is funny for the fellas, fanciful for the females and includes a drop of empowerment for the feminists.

Fancy Yourself a Filmmaker?

The wing Dining Out committee is holding a video presentation contest for this year's Dining Out. The video will be played during the event and will represent Ellsworth's Dining Out theme, "Traditions never forgotten; taking us into the future." The video length is limited to two songs or approximately seven minutes.

To create and present a video to the committee, call Tech. Sgt. Jason Kreutzer at 385-6115 with your information and video by March 3. The creator of the winning video will receive two free tickets to the May 5 wing Dining Out.



Shake of the nerves for the big show



Photo by Airman Kimberly Limrick

A dog show was held at the Black Hills Community Center on Saturday.

One dog that participated, seen here, is Roxy. Roxy was show by Mrs. Melissa Thurman, wife of Staff Sgt. Charles Thurman, 28th Communications Squadron.

Winners in Saturday's show were:

Largest Dog Isis (Great Dane) Owner: Senior Airman Melissa Neild, 28th **Operations Support** Squadron

Smallest Dog Cassey (Miniature Dachshund) Owners: Mr. Gary & Tech. Sgt. Lisa Chalifoux 28th

Best Costume Bella (Boston Terrier) Owner: Ms. Shae Jones

Most Colorful Bruce (Sheltie) Owner: Mrs. Veronica Mullen, wife of Staff Sgt. Arthur Mullen, 28th CS

Best Trick Monti (Tiroler Bracke Mix) Owner: Mr. Howard Aubertar, 28th Civil

February 20

Best In Show Monti

Engineer Squadron

Upcoming Services Events

Meal, gaming and transport Outdoor Recreation • 385-2997 Feb. 24 • 5 p.m. • \$15

Chocolate Night Youth Center • 385-2277 Feb. 24 • 6 to 8pm • \$5

Cardboard Sled Race Golf Course • 385-1609 *Feb.* 25 • 1 p.m.

First Gold Trip Deer Mountain Tubing Youth Center • 385-2277 Feb. 25 • 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. • \$10

> Night Skiing Trip to Deer Mountain Outdoor Recreation • 385-2997 Feb. 25 • 2:30 p.m. • \$10 to 20

Sunday Brunch Dakota's Club • 385-1765 Feb. 26 • 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. • \$15

Monday_

Iceberg Swim Indoor Pool • 385-2667 • 1 to 6 p.m. • \$3

Tuesday.

February 21

Iceberg Swim Indoor Pool • 385-2667 • 1 to 7 p.m. • \$3

February 23 Thursday_

5K Fun Run

Fitness Center • 385-2266 • 11 a.m. • free

Bandit Inn -Menu

Today, February 17 Lunch

- Beef & Corn Pie
- Seafood Newburg
- Roast Turkey

Dinner

- Yankee Pot Roast
- Simmered Corn Beef
- Pineapple Chicken

Saturday, February 18 Lunch

- Creole Shrimp
- Savory Baked Chicken
- Swedish Meatballs

Dinner

- · Baked Fish
- BBQ Chicken
- Hungarian Goulash

Sunday, February 19 Lunch

- · Lemon Baked Fish
- Cantonese Spareribs
- Grilled Mustard Chicken

Dinner

- Beef Strips
- Beef & Broccoli Stir Fry
- Turkey Nuggets

Monday, February 20 Lunch

- Cajun Baked Fish
- Ginger Pot Roast
- Roast Pork Loin

Dinner

- Cheese Cannelloni
- Chili Macaroni
- Southern Fried Chicken

Tuesday, February 21 Lunch

- Salmon Cakes
- Teriyaki Chicken
- Veal Parmesan

Dinner

- Country Captain Chicken
- Meatloaf
- Turkey A'la King

Wednesday, February 22 Lunch: Southern Meal

- BBQ Spareribs
- Southern Fried Catfish
- Southern Fried Chicken

Dinner

- BBQ Spareribs
- Lemon Herb Chicken
- Stuffed Pork Chops

Thursday, February 23 Lunch

- Herb Baked Chicken
- Stuffed Cabbage Rolls
- Southern Fried Catfish

Dinner

- Glazed Cornish Hen
- Jaegershnitzel
- Roast Pork Loin



Ellsworth's spotlight on...

Senior Airman William Chesnutt

37th Bomb Squadron commander's support staff representative

What does your job entail?

I perform personnel actions for members of my squadron.

What do you like about your job?

I enjoy helping people with their problems. It really makes me feel like I'm having a positive impact on the mission.

Where are you from?

Vero Beach, Fla.

What do you like about the Air Force?

People's willingness to lend a hand when you're in need

What do you do in your spare time?

I read, cook and play video games.

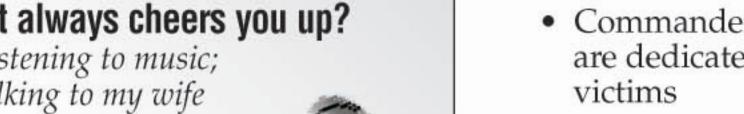
What's the most important advice you'd give new Airmen?

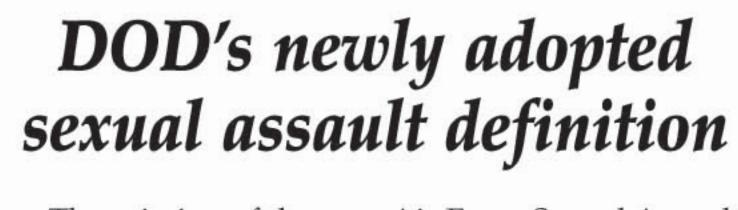
Stick to your core values and you can't go wrong. They're drilled into our heads for a reason.

What are you proud of? I'll be a father in six months.

What always cheers you up?

Listening to music; talking to my wife Coral





of the

The mission of the new Air Force Sexual Assault Response Program is to ensure all personnel know:

- Sexual assault is criminal conduct and will not be tolerated
- Commanders, first sergeants and supervisors are dedicated to improving response to
- Victims will be treated with respect, and every action will be taken to ensure their dignity is maintained and needs are met
- Prevention is a priority

Sexual assault is defined by the Department of Defense as "intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, physical threat, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent."

This definition isn't difficult for most to understand or accept because it resonates with the one we hold in society. Our societal beliefs about victims are addressed — someone who does not or cannot consent to sex.

It also fits our beliefs about offenders — those who use force, threat or abuse their authority.

This definition, however, has been extended to say that "'consent' shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance, because consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated or unconscious."

This is one of the most stringent definitions of sexual assault, and it's the one DOD has chosen to adopt.

Information provided by Ms. Peggy Moore-McCoy, 28th Bomb Wing Sexual Assault Response coordinator.

Ms. Rachel Rice

28th Services Squadron human resources assistant

What does your job entail?

I assist in providing recruitment and placement service to nonappropriated funds activities by processing a full range of personnel actions.

What do you like about your job?

I like talking to all the people who come to the human resource office to apply for jobs.

What do you like about the Air Force?

I like seeing new places and meeting people from all over the world and having a sense of community no matter where you're stationed.

Where are you from? Johns Creek, Ky.

What do you do in your spare time?

Read and work on all kinds of crafts

What's the most important advice you'd give new Airmen?

Get involved in your community.

What always cheers you up?

When I'm sad, singing always cheers me up.

What was your favorite toy as a child?

Roller skates; I loved skating.



These Team Ellsworth members have been recognized by their commanders, first sergeants and supervisors for consistently demonstrating a high degree of professionalism and dedication to accomplishing our wing's mission. For more information, call the public affairs office at 385-5056.

Base Chapel Schedule

Daily Catholic Mass

Monday through Thursday at noon at the Black Hills Chapel

Sunday Catholic Mass

9:30 a.m. at the Black Hills Chapel

Catholic Religious Education Sunday, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Chapel Activity Center

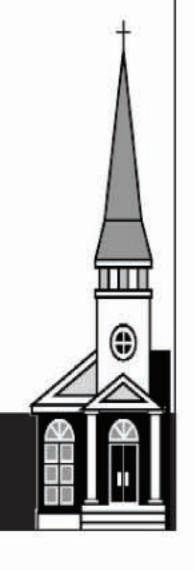
Sunday Protestant Services

- Community Service, 11 a.m. at the Freedom Chapel
- Inspirational Gospel Service, 11:15 a.m. at the Black Hills Chapel
- Rock Contemporary Service, 6 p.m. at the CAC

The Freedom Chapel is located at 1554 Ellsworth Street, west of the Commissary.

The Black Hills Chapel is located at 1192 Foulois Drive, east of the Rushmore Center.

The Chapel Activities Center is located at 1158 Ellsworth Street, north of the Rushmore Center.



For more information, call the base chapel office at 385-1598.

One team, one fight Home or away, the game is still the same

By Chief Master Sgt. Jerry Densmore

28TH MAINTENANCE GROUP MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT

There I was, peacefully checking my e-mail at a deployed location, and up popped a tasker from home station, asking if I was willing to write an article for the base newspaper. It was suggested that I share a deployed leadership perspective.

That's something to get your mind turning, and I really wanted to hit the beach for some volleyball. I mulled it over, and here's what came forth.

We know what needs to be done at home station, who to call for help with particular issues, home-station operating instructions, checklists and procedures.

But what do we do when we are at a forward-operating location?

In the past few years, I found myself in a couple situations that required me to apply different approaches to accomplish the mission.

In the first situation, I was deployed along with the majority of the expeditionary wing leadership from home station, similar to what happened when the 28th Bomb Wing led the charge for Operation Iraqi Freedom as the 405th Air Expeditionary Wing. I knew the majority of wing leadership and how they operated.

We hit the ground running by adjusting our home station processes to local conditions, developing checklists that only applied to combat operations and learning how to submit *Air Force Form 9s* for local purchases because we couldn't use a government purchase card, and we melded three different airframes into

an effective fighting force.

I had supervisors working for me that knew their business, allowing me to focus on ensuring we were working by the book and getting the things our Airmen needed to keep the mission moving. We developed a successful team because we knew and trusted our appointed leaders, as well as the Airmen working for us.

In the second situation, I found myself blended into an existing air expeditionary wing that was unfamiliar with B-1 aircraft operations. We were tasked to provide the aircraft, maintenance, life support and air crew personnel along with a maintenance commander, flying squadron commander and operations group commander.

We first needed to review local OIs and checklists to ensure all bases were covered, such as handling hazardous material disposal, which aircraft parking spots permitted the loading of live munitions, how long it takes for fueling trucks to reach the aircraft and how many aircraft could be fueled at one time. We also had to quickly adapt to local wing leadership style, as well as educate them on the strengths and weaknesses of the B-1. It was very challenging to add a flying mission to a wing with no assigned aircraft.

So where is this taking me, you ask? Most of our daily efforts are the same whether we operate in a bare-base environment or at an established installation. Our Airmen know their business, how to maintain and launch aircraft, manage supply parts, set up computer accounts and run a tool room.

As supervisors and enlisted leaders, it's our job to ensure our personnel have what it takes to get the job done safely. We run the interference and interface with the base agencies to enable mission accomplishment. We must quickly adapt and get to know those people on base in different shops so we can get the answers and solutions to enable our Airmen to get the job done.

We must also make sure we keep our squadron and group leadership informed so they can take action if required.

Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, uses the letters PTP as the base focus. This acronym stands for Passion, Trust and Pride. I think we can view this in another way.

As leaders, we need to have a passion to take care of our people. We need to trust them to do the job right the first time. And most importantly, we need to express our pride in mission accomplishment.

You're the ones turning the wrenches, delivering the parts, providing the meals and cleaning the equipment ... yes, it can be dirty work.

We must all make sure we thank our Airmen for a difficult job done well, no matter where we're operating.

One team, one fight!

"Most of our daily efforts are the same whether we operate in a bare-base environment or at an established installation.

Our Airmen know their business..."



LRS runs winning streak to eight

The 28th Logistics Readiness Squadron kept trucking along in the intramural basketball National League regular season, knocking off the 28th Comptroller Squadron/ 28th Contracting Squadron, 63-47, Feb. 7, and the 28th Communications Squadron, 66-56, Feb. 9 to move their record to 8-0.

Kyle Rogier and Elliott Young led the offensive attack for LRS against CPTS/ CONS, scoring 10 points apiece. Jason Kreutzer scored 14 for CPTS/CONS (0-8).

Michael Smith scored 14 for LRS, and Rogier chipped in 13 in the win. Dominic Calcutt scored a game-high 24 for CS.

28th CES A 56, 28th MUNS 24

The 28th Civil Engineer Squadron A team ran away with an intramural basketball National League contest with the 28th Munitions Squadron, 56-24, Feb. 7.

Daryl Johnson scored a game-high 18 points, and Kody Schlageter added 14 in the win for CES A. Benjamin Ramaekers scored 8 for MUNS (2-6).

34th BS/ 37th BS 67, 28th CS 44

The 34th Bomb Squadron/37th Bomb Squadron knocked off CS, 67-44, in intramural basketball National League action Feb. 7. Justin Nightingale took over offensively

for the bomb squadrons, netting 25 points in the victory. Justin Calmes added 15 for the bomb squadrons. Calcutt led CS (5-3) with 17 points.

28th MDG/28th SVS 86, 28th SFS 57

The 28th Medical Group/28th Services Squadron kept up its winning ways with an 86-57 win over the 28th Security Forces Squadron Feb. 8 in intramural basketball American League play.

Bruce Oguinn scored an intramural basketball season-high with 35 points for MDG/SVS (7-0). Joshua Trenkle added 24 for the American League leaders. Neal Cooper led SFS (3-5) with 22 points.

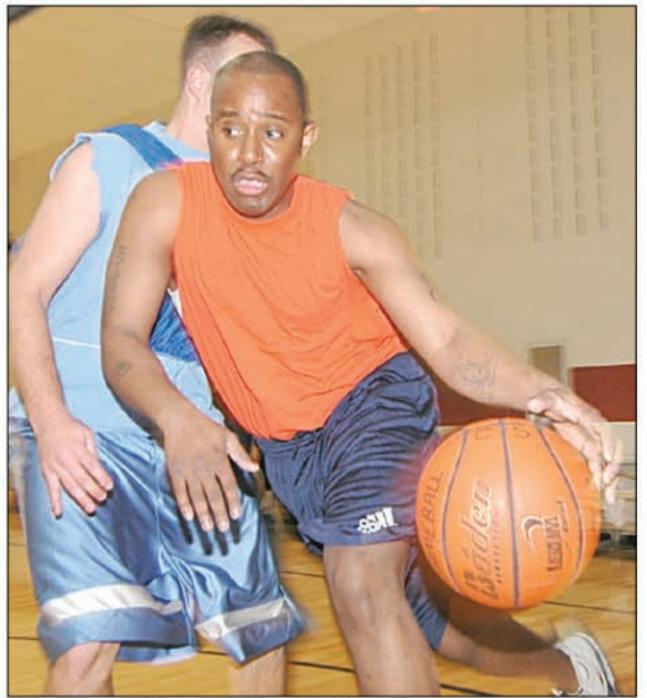
28th MXS 47, 28th CES B 44

The 28th Maintenance Squadron held off the 28th CES B team, 47-44, Feb. 8 in intramural basketball American League action.

Randall Parrish led the way for MXS (4-2), scoring 21 points. Germany Lucas scored 12 points for CES B (4-3), respectively.

34th BS/37th BS 51, 28th CES A 44

The bomb squadrons held off CES A, 51-44, in intramural basketball National League action Feb. 9. The win puts the bomb squadrons (6-2) in sole possession of second



Elliot Young, 28th Logistics Readiness Squadron guard, drives to the hoop during LRS' 32 - 35 loss to the 28th Munitions Squadron Tuesday.

place in the National League.

Nightingale and Calmes paced the bomb squadrons' victory with 14 and 13 points, respectively. James Temple led CES A (5-3) with 14 points.

Information provided by Mr. Joe Drab, 28th SVS intramural sports director.

I believe I can fly



Photos by Senior Airman Jason Piatek

Michael Napier, 28th Maintenance Operations Squadron guard, blows past Byron Jones, 28th Comptroller Squadron/ Contracting Squadron forward, during MOS' 45-36 shellacking Tuesday at the senior league playoffs. The league championship game, between the 28th Operations Support Squadron and the 28th Medical Group, will be featured in next week's Bandit.

Intramural Standings

Bowling

(t)	hrough Feb. 10)
28 AMXS 'B'	30-10
28 CS	28-12
28 LRS	24-16
28 MSS	24-16
28 MDG	24-16
28 AMXS 'A'	22-18
28 MXS 'A'	20-20
28 SFS	20-20
28 SVS 'A'	20-20
28 CES	18-22
28 SVS 'B'	18-22
28 MXS 'B'	16-24
28 MUNS	14-26
28 MXS 'C'	2-38

Basketball

(through Feb. 10)

American League 28 MDG/28 SVS.....7-0 28 MXS.....4-2 28 AMXS.....4-2

28 CES 'B'4-3

28 SFS......3-5

National League

28	LKS	.8-0
34	BS/37 BS	.6-2
28	CES 'A'	5-3
28	CS	.3-5
28	MUNS	2-6
28	CPTS/28 CONS	.0-8

Senior League

28 OSS	.7-1
28 MDG	.6-2
28 MOS	.6-2
28 CPTS/28 CONS	.5-3
28 CS	.2-6
28 LRS	.1-7

Racquetball

(through Feb. 1	U)
28 AMXS7	7
28 CPTS/28 CONS7	7
34 BS/37 BS4	1
28 CS	3
28 LRS3	3
28 MUNS2	2
28 OSS1	Ĺ
28 SFS1	

13



Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Bhutan capital

7. Faucet

10. Crazy ___ loon

13. NBA"bad boy"

Dennis

14. Mining goal 15. 41st or 43rd President

17. 34th President

19. Food fish

20. Pot-au-___; French meats and vegetables dish

21. Cooker

22. Weight Watcher goal 26. 7th President Jackson

FAT

MIERS

CORROSION LIEF

HELENA

SCALE

KPS

SPOIL

INTEGRITY

DIRER SKEW

29. Theater system

30. Enter again

RIDEURGES

RENE

32. Singer Horne

33. Most gloomy 37. Hair product

38. A-Team actor

39. Keep ____ tongue

from evil ... 40. Millipede or

centipede

44. Male red deer

46. Bother

47. Office supply

company

48. Correctly 51. 16th President

53. Garden spot

54. ___ 36-2903

55. Fury

56. 1st President

63. Sultan

64. Oklahoma town

65. Store (fodder) in

a silo

DAS

TILE

EVIL

TENN

MESAS

TOTO

SIN

LOVES

66. Concorde, in brief

67. Dem.'s opposite

68. Matched up

Down

1. Cuba in Boyz 'n the Hood

2. ___ polloi; the masses3. Mil. CAC cards

4. Married French woman, in short

5. Canadian winter resort site

6. Not listened to

7. Drag behind

8. Who _ you?

9. Each

10. Loathe

11. Debonair

12. Slanted

16. Chicken

18. Farthest away

22. Rapper ___ Kim 23. Greek letter

24. More reasonable

25. Celebrate

26. Shiite religious

authority

27. Nat'l talk radio

28. Opus

31. Maryland players

34. Moral

35. Stiff, cylindrical military dress hat

36. Austria and Italy neighbor

41. TMO items





53 55

42. Stadium cheer

43. Makes a god of

45. SpikeTV once

48. 2nd or 6th President

49. Kelly's co-host

50. Languid

52. Fool

53. Before, poetically

56. Fray

57. Sweetened beverage

58. Resin

59. Home to Let's Make A Deal land Extreme

Dodgeball

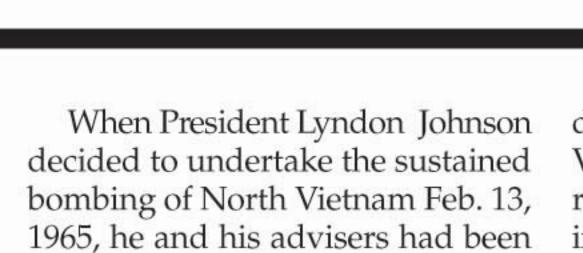
60. __-tac-toe

61. Bullring cheer

62. Homer's neighbor

By Capt. Tony Wickman 71st Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Feb. 13, 1965, Johnson approves Operation Rolling Thunder



contemplating the move for a year. Earlier in the month, the President ordered Operation Flaming Dart in response to communist attacks on U.S. installations in South Vietnam.

These retaliatory raids didn't have the desired effect of causing the North Vietnamese to cease support of Viet Cong forces in South Vietnam, and, out of frustration, Johnson turned to a more extensive use of airpower.

Operation Rolling Thunder was

designed to interdict North Vietnamese transportation routes and slow infiltration into South Vietnam.

The first Rolling Thunder mission took place March 2, 1965, when 100 U.S. Air Force and Republic of Vietnam Air Force planes struck the Xom Bang ammunition dump 100 miles southeast of Hanoi.

In July 1966, Rolling Thunder was expanded to include ammunition dumps and oil storage facilities, and in 1967, it was further expanded to include power plants, factories and airfields in the Hanoi-Haiphong area.



closely controlled by the White House, and at times targets were personally selected by President Johnson.

From 1965 to 1968, about 643,000 tons of bombs were dropped on North Vietnam. Nearly 900 U.S. aircraft were lost during Operation Rolling Thunder.

The operation continued, with occasional suspensions, until President Johnson, under increasing domestic political pressure, halted it Oct. 31, 1968.

